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ESA FALLS

SCENIC (BYWAY)

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

Targhee
National Forest



In cooperation with
Idaho State Parks and Recreation

REWARDS FROM THE LAND

THE SOUTH END of Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins at the junction of U.S. Highway 20 and State Highway 47 in the agricultural community of Ashton, Idaho. Traveling east you pass through rolling fields of seed potatoes, barley, and alfalfa. Views of Grand Teton Mountain Range offer a dramatic backdrop.

As you leave the plateau, watch for the Henry's Fork of the Snake River and its two tributaries Warm River and Robinson Creek in Three Rivers Canyon.

The climb out of the canyon area is up the side of one of the largest volcanic craters in the United States. This caldera is 23 miles across.

Traveling through Targhee National Forest, you follow the same route early travelers took to Yellowstone National Park. Some rode in "white top buggies". Others chose passenger trains operated by Union Pacific Railroad from 1909 until the late 1940's. The railroad grade is visible east of the Byway along Warm River.

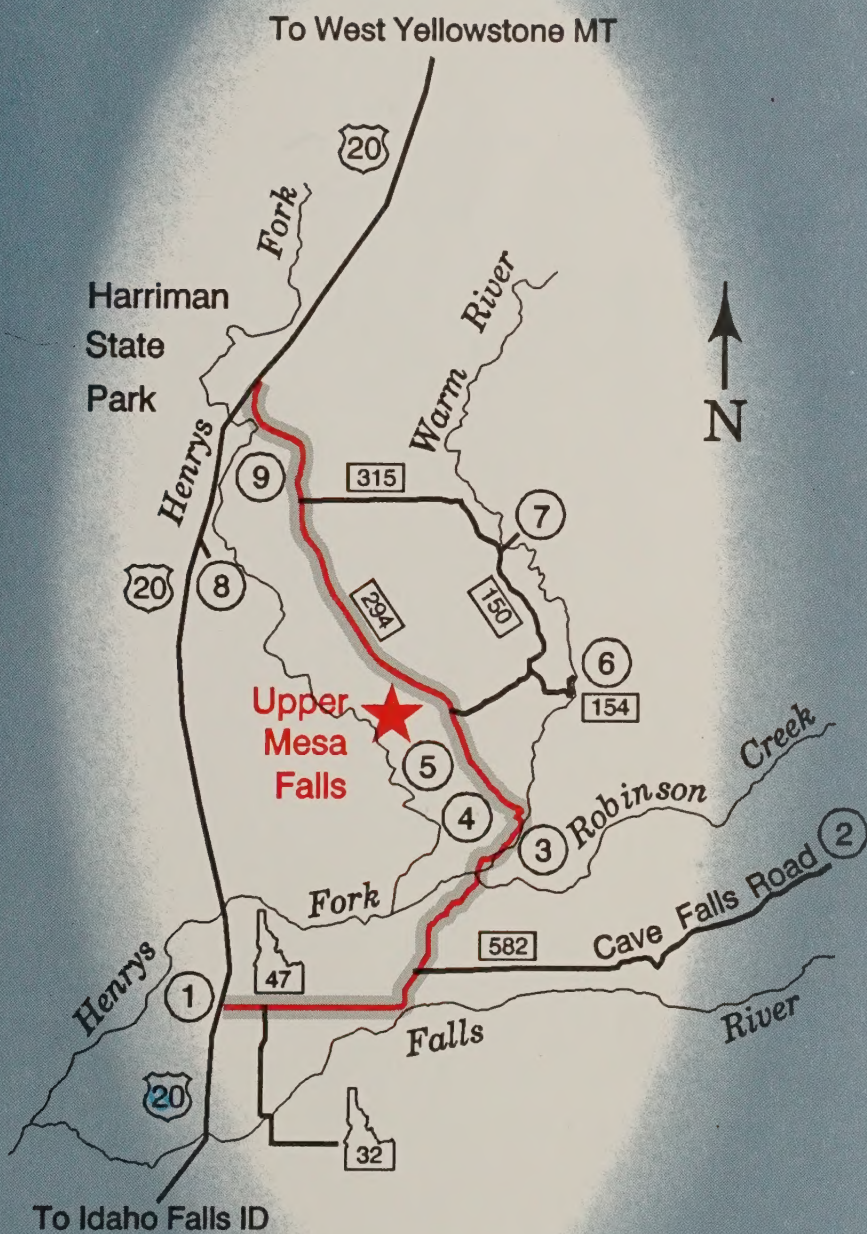
Upper and Lower Mesa Falls provide spectacular scenery along the Byway. In the winter, they are popular destinations for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Visitor facilities at Upper Mesa Falls are handicapped accessible.

Along the remaining 12 miles of the Byway, you pass through elk migration routes, timber harvest and firewood gathering areas, and livestock range.

Harriman State Park is located one mile south of the Byway at its northern junction with U.S. Highway 20. Learn more about the history, geology, and wildlife of the area as you walk along the trails of the historic Railroad Ranch. To the north is the community of Island Park which boasts the longest main street in the world.

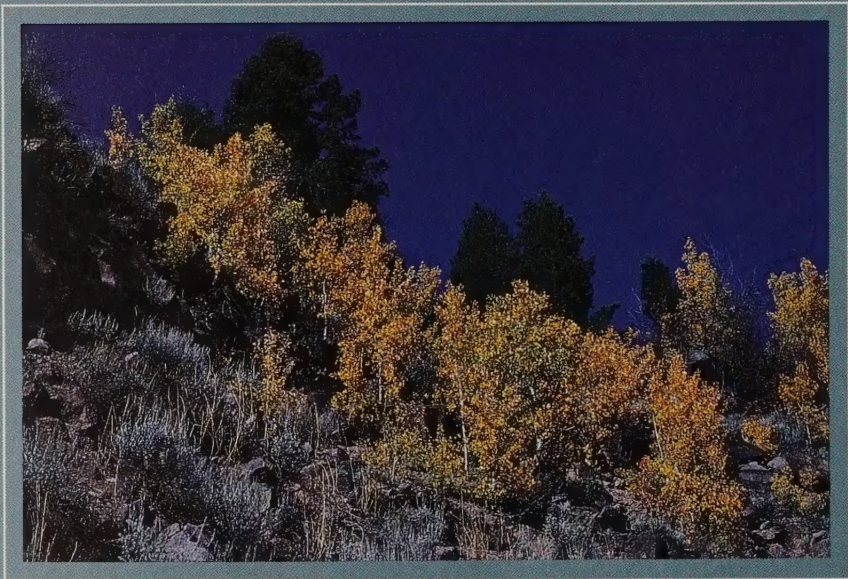
MESA FALLS SCENIC BYWAY

IDAHO



DISTANCE FROM UPPER MESA FALLS SCENIC AREA TO . . .

1. Town of Ashton	16.5 mi
2. Cave Falls	27.5 mi
3. Warm River Campground	6.5 mi
4. Bear Gulch	4.0 mi
5. Lower Mesa Falls	1.5 mi
6. Warm River Springs	5.0 mi
7. Pole Bridge Campground	7.5 mi
8. Riverside Campground	16.0 mi
9. Osborne Springs	9.5 mi



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA CONTACT . . .

Ashton Ranger District	208/652-7442
Island Park Ranger District	208/558-7301
Harriman State Park	208/558-7368
Ashton Chamber of Commerce	208/652-3987



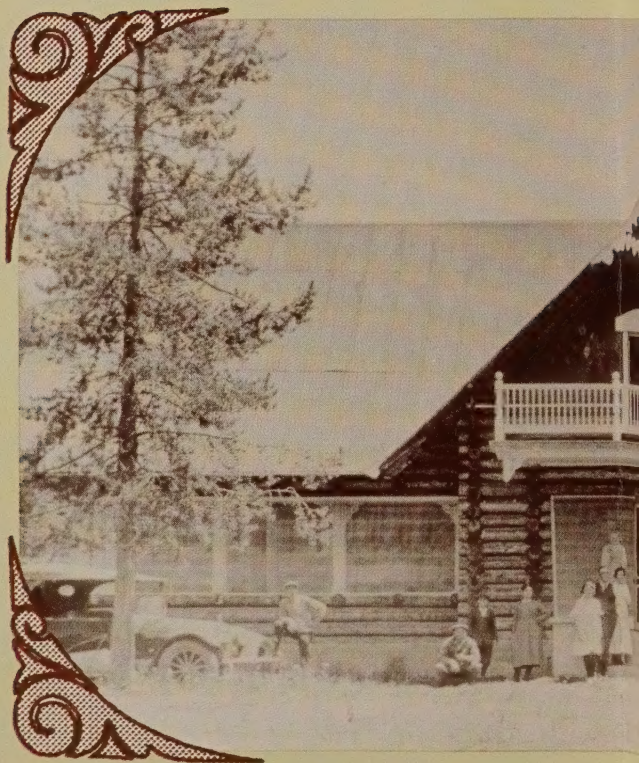
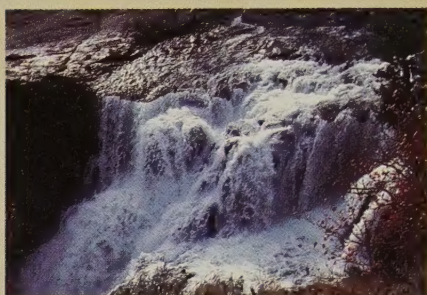
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PARTNERSHIPS

HAVE YOU NOTICED employees working at Mesa Falls Scenic Area wear two different uniforms? Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation and Targhee National Forest are jointly developing and operating Mesa Falls Scenic Area.

Development planned for the area includes trails, interpretive displays and picnicking facilities.

Additional partnerships are being sought to restore historic Big Falls Inn. It will be used as a visitor information facility.



YEARS GONE BY

IN THE 1930's, Lower Mesa Falls was chosen for a Civilian Conservation Corps project. CCC crews constructed a beautiful stone overlook which is still in excellent condition today.

Before construction of U.S. Highway 20 in the late 1950's, Mesa Falls Highway was the primary route to the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The road was grueling to say the least. Big Falls Inn constructed at the turn of the century at Upper Mesa Falls was an ideal halfway respite on the journey.

In 1986 Upper Mesa Falls came into public ownership. It had exchanged hands many times with each owner planning to construct facilities for power generation. Lower Mesa Falls has always been National Forest system lands.





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EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Idaho State Police 208/522-5141
 Ambulance/Sheriff-Fremont County 911
 Report Fires to:
 Targhee NF Dispatcher 208/624-3031 or 208/624-3011
 Emergency Phones: Ashton, Harriman State Park, & Warm River CG

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